GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:525
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2009
FAKE VISAS AND PASSPORTS
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of fake visas and passports are on a rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during each of the last three years and current year;

(c) whether involvement of travel agents has been reported in such cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a)to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 525 FOR 24.2.2009.

(a)to (e): As per the available information, the number of cases of forgery in visas and passports detected at the five major International Airports namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Amritsar during the last three years are given in the table below:

Sl No.	Year	Number of cases reported
1.	2006	1492
2.	2007	1251
3.	2008	865

Prompt action is taken as and when such cases of forgery/fake visas and passport are detected. Agents involved in preparing such forged/fake documents are apprehended by the local police authorities and appropriate action is taken against them as per law.

A number of steps have been taken by the government to check travel by persons on forged/fake documents.These steps include:

i) Use of magnifying glass and Ultra Violet lamps at all International Airports for scrutinizing the features of the travel documents;

ii) Issuance of machine-readable passports with improved security features;

iii) Installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) for verifying the genuiness of the passports;

iv) Installation of Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines for detection of sophisticated forgeries in travel documents;

v) Installation of Immigration Control system (ICS) software which verifies the passport details of passengers to prevent impersonation; besides

vi) Special training is also imparted to Immigration Officers at airports on a regular basis to detect gorged/fake travel documents.

Steps have also been taken by the Government to prevent the Recruiting Agents (RAs) from facilitating emigration of persons on

fake/forged documents, whereby
(i) Recruiting Agents are required to submit all the employment documents in original for obtaining emigration clearance; and
(ii) Publicity campaigns have been undertaken to make prospective emigrants aware of the provisions of the Emigration Act and the rules made thereunder.